



ROCKLAND

Plymouth County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Rockland is an industrial community in Plymouth county. In 1645, the Plymouth Colony granted the area which would become Rockland to Timothy Hatherly. The first settlers were drawn by the rich woodlands of pine and oak and the first mill was opened by the Thaxter family in 1703. But some of King Philip's forces made their encampment in town and white settlement in the community only began flourishing well after the war, in the 1730's. The town relied on agriculture, timbering and saw milling and shipped large quantities of oak timber to colonial shipyards. In the 19th century, Rockland became a center for shoe production and by 1832 there were six factories which produced twice the value of shoes being made in Brockton. By 1837, the town was manufacturing twice as many shoes as all other towns in the county put together. Rockland is supposed to have shod half the Union Army, along with pioneering in machine sewn shoes and producing fur-lined boots.

Trolleys and trains tied the town to Abington, Hanover and Brockton in the 19th century and the town was incorporated in 1874. By 1865, 2800 male and female workers produced \$3.5 million worth of shoes and boots compared to \$1.46 million in Brockton. Most shoe factories closed in the Depression years but intense commercial expansion along Route 123 brought suburban development with it, since the town is only 20 miles southeast of Boston. Although Rockland has been an industrial community since the mid-19th century, there are large tracts of town which remain wooded and the town retains a somewhat rural quality.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Weymouth and Hingham on the north, Norwell and Hanover on the east, Hanson on the south, and Whitman and Abington on the west. Rockland is about 8 miles east of Brockton, 20 miles southeast of Boston, and 215 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 10.10 sq. miles

Land Area: 10.02 sq. miles

Population: 16,123

Density: 1,609 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Brockton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....26.9°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.5"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Weymouth, Whitman

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 871-1874

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen
Executive Secretary
Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1874

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	8,917		
Democrats	2,961	33.2	%
Republicans	971	10.9	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	4,985	55.9	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Rockland town, Plymouth County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	17,670	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	17,670	100.0
Male.....	8,458	47.9	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	180	1.0
Female.....	9,212	52.1	Mexican.....	19	0.1
Under 5 years.....	1,290	7.3	Puerto Rican.....	54	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	1,267	7.2	Cuban.....	10	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,357	7.7	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	97	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	1,125	6.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	17,490	99.0
20 to 24 years.....	838	4.7	White alone.....	16,641	94.2
25 to 34 years.....	2,574	14.6	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	3,089	17.5	Total population.....	17,670	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,371	13.4	In households.....	17,479	98.9
55 to 59 years.....	801	4.5	Householder.....	6,539	37.0
60 to 64 years.....	683	3.9	Spouse.....	3,447	19.5
65 to 74 years.....	1,200	6.8	Child.....	5,910	33.4
75 to 84 years.....	819	4.6	Own child under 18 years.....	4,295	24.3
85 years and over.....	256	1.4	Other relatives.....	843	4.8
Median age (years).....	36.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	293	1.7
18 years and over.....	12,996	73.5	Nonrelatives.....	740	4.2
Male.....	6,006	34.0	Unmarried partner.....	354	2.0
Female.....	6,990	39.6	In group quarters.....	191	1.1
21 years and over.....	12,442	70.4	Institutionalized population.....	170	1.0
62 years and over.....	2,657	15.0	Noninstitutionalized population.....	21	0.1
65 years and over.....	2,275	12.9	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	892	5.0	Total households.....	6,539	100.0
Female.....	1,383	7.8	Family households (families).....	4,584	70.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	2,239	34.2
One race.....	17,410	98.5	Married-couple family.....	3,447	52.7
White.....	16,753	94.8	With own children under 18 years.....	1,655	25.3
Black or African American.....	302	1.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	862	13.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	26	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	451	6.9
Asian.....	190	1.1	Nonfamily households.....	1,955	29.9
Asian Indian.....	17	0.1	Householder living alone.....	1,628	24.9
Chinese.....	23	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	641	9.8
Filipino.....	18	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,436	37.3
Japanese.....	2	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,616	24.7
Korean.....	11	0.1	Average household size.....	2.67	(X)
Vietnamese.....	103	0.6	Average family size.....	3.23	(X)
Other Asian ¹	16	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	6,649	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	6,539	98.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	110	1.7
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	17	0.3
Some other race.....	199	0.8	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	260	1.5	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.9	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	6,539	100.0
White.....	16,993	96.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	4,770	72.9
Black or African American.....	396	2.2	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,769	27.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	109	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.80	(X)
Asian.....	232	1.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.33	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	6	-			
Some other race.....	299	1.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 42

Conventional Federal: 40

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 24

Federal (Section 8): 130



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Rockland is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 123 and 139.

Rail

Commuter rail service to South Station, Boston will be available in 1996-97 on the Plymouth Line from Abington or Whitman. The MBTA Red Line is accessible from station in Braintree and Quincy. Travel time from Braintree Station to Park Street: 25 min., 1,228 MBTA parking spaces.

Bus

Rockland is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). Carey's Bus Lines provides commuter service to 3 locations in Boston. The Plymouth and Brockton Street Railway Company offers frequent commuter bus service between Boston, Plymouth, Barnstable and Hyannis, via the Route 228 Commuter lot in Rockland.

Other

The Plymouth and Brockton Street Railway Company provides bus service to Logan Airport in Boston. Boston Harbor Commuter Services and Mass Bay Lines offer commuter boat service to Rowes Wharf, Boston from Hingham.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Del Manor Nursing Home, Inc

South Shore Nursing Facility

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

Tiffany Ii Rest Home

Tiffany Rest & Retirement Home

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.